

NOV 27 1978

**ANACONDA**



November 22, 1978

The Honorable Floyd R. Correa  
Governor - Pueblo of Laguna  
P. O. Box 194  
Laguna, New Mexico 87026

Dear Governor Correa:

In developing a response to your November 13, 1978 letter regarding blasting versus Alpine mining, I have not come up with any information that indicates assurance to the Pueblo Council that the Alpine Miner would be used exclusively in the PW-2/3 underground mine.

A Pueblo Council meeting was held October 18 and 19, 1977 with Anaconda representatives. Ted Beck, Earl Arlin, Ernie Lucero, Andy Anderson, Pete Smith, John Nelson and Ron Ringhand were present at different times over the two days. Several subjects were discussed including the PW-2/3 project. At that meeting a discussion was presented which described the use of explosives in driving development headings and stope mining. The Alpine Miner was also discussed.

Our notes of the series of discussions held over the two day period indicate: a field trip by the Council to the mine area, concern by Pagate residents to the blasting technique to be employed, and that a statement was made by a Company representative that the Alpine Miner would be used if possible, in which case explosives would not be used. There was not, however, a commitment from the Company. Near the conclusion of the discussion relating to the PW-2/3 project, the Governor called for a vote regarding the acceptability of blasting. Company representatives concluded that the result of the vote was to indicate the approval of blasting.

The portal to PW-2/3 was collared in March of 1978 and the first twenty-five feet or so was driven by the Alpine Miner. Since then, the entire development has been carried on by conventional blasting methods.

Whereas the Alpine Miner could be used in development drifts, it is not a suitable tool for extracting ore from stopes. We have not used the Alpine Miner since the original entry because of its slow progress due to hard ground and its inability to remove mined material from the working face at an adequate rate.

Apparently there is concern being raised by our blasting in PW-2/3. We will listen to these questions, review our practices and attempt to modify our procedures to reduce any disturbance, if this becomes evident from the investigation. I will have Ernie Lucero meet with Pagate residents for their

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comments and I will also have him conduct seismic tests during blasting. We will be very agreeable to participation from you or your staff.

If you would like to discuss this matter at any time with me, I can come to your office at your convenience.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "R.D. Lynn", written in dark ink.

R.D. LYNN  
General Manager

RDL/jms